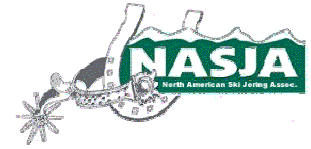


SKIJOR AMERICA RULES



1. DIVISIONS

- **OPEN (PRO) CLASS** – Skijor America sponsored
- **SPORT (AMATEUR) CLASS** – NASJA sponsored
- **NOVICE CLASS** – Locally sponsored

2. DIVISION CRITERIA

- a. **OPEN CLASS** teams are considered to be the highest skilled competitors with the fastest horses. A team consists of horse, rider and skier. Entrants may be male or female. Payment of registration fees entitles the registrants to **Skijor America point's** accumulation toward the **American Cup** an eight race circuit awards in this class.
- b. **SPORT CLASS** teams are considered to be intermediate level skill participants riding horses that may not be fast enough to be in the open class. A team consists of horse, rider and skier. Any horse winning 1st place in this class must move up to the open class for the following years event. Any skier winning 1st place in this class must move up to the open class level for the following years event.
- c. **NOVICE CLASS** teams are considered to be beginning level competitors riding horses that may not have speed enough to be competitive in the open or the sport class. Any horse that wins 1st place in this class must move to a higher level of competition for the following years event. Any skier that wins 1st place in this class must move to a higher level of competition for the following years event.

3. COMPETITION RULES

- a. Rules are the same for Open, Sport, Novice divisions.
- b. All skiers must wear approved snow sport helmets. Eye protection is recommended.
- c. Helmets and protective vests are recommended for riders
- d. **A Horse** can compete in only **one** Division. A horse may not run more than **two times** in a day.
- e. **A Rider** may compete in more than **one** Division, but must compete on a different horse in each Division entered. A rider may compete up to **two times in each division** in a day.
- f. **A Skier** can compete in only one Division. A skier may compete up to **four times** in a day. Keep in mind that a skier can run only once behind the same horse in any division in a day.
- g. It is permissible on the 2nd run of any horse in any division, for the rider to become the skier and the skier to become the rider. Keep in mind a horse can only run twice in a day and must stay in the same division.
- h. **Substitutions:** No substitutions are allowed for any team member (horse, skier or rider). If any team member cannot compete for any reason, the team will be disqualified. No refunds will be given.
- i. **Staging between runs:** (The Sparby Rule) Each team is allowed four minutes to complete staging and begin the race. After this allotted time has expired, the competitors will be asked to leave the staging area. The team will be allowed one more attempt to race at the end of the Division. If the staging time is again exceeded, that team will be disqualified from that day's competition. The allotted four-minute time period will begin the declaration of a clear track.
- j. **Finishing the Race** – the Skier must finish in an upright position and on at least one ski, with rope in hand when crossing the finish line. Both skier boots must cross the finish line.
- k. **Gates** -Both ski tips and both boots must go around a gate, or the gate is considered missed.
- l. If the Skier drops the rope **BEFORE** crossing the start line, he/she will be allowed a restart, immediately

4. PENALTIES

- a. A five second penalty is assessed for each missed jump, gate or ring
- b. A five second penalty is assessed for any horse breaking the plane of any jump, hitting a gate, or hitting a timing device (i.e. clapper boards).

5. SAFETY

- a. **Horses** – The on-site veterinarian will have the authority to scratch a horse for health reasons or concerns pertaining to the safety of the horse and the image of the sport. Any member of the organizing committee can require a horse to be examined by the veterinarian prior to racing.
- b. **Protective legwear:** It is highly recommended that horses be outfitted with bell boots and Leg Guards on each foot (4).
- c. An ambulance crew will be on site. Service, if needed, will be charged to the benefactor
- d. A veterinarian will be on site. Service, if needed, will be charged to the benefactor

6. DISPUTES

- a. If a team member has a concern regarding his run, that concern must be brought to the attention of the Arena Judge as soon as possible after the run but not later than the start of the next class. A Protest Committee consisting of 3 non competing members, experienced in the event, schooled in the rules and selected to have no conflict of interest, will consider the concern presented and make a decision not later than the start of the next class. The decision of that committee is final and all involved are ask to accept that decision in the spirit of friendly competition

7. COURSE

- a. **Length** – Approximately 600 to 900 feet from start to finish gates.
- b. **Run Out** – A horse run out shall be approximately 1/3rd of the course length from finish
- c. **Gates** – Breakaway style where skier goes right of red gates and left of blue gates.
- d. **Jumps** – Typacally Three jumps, approximately five feet in height with flatten tops
- e. **Rings** - Typacally used on straight tracks, two sets of three to four rings.

8. EQUIPMENT

- a. Ropes are to be 50ft in length for circle courses and 33ft in length for straight courses, 3/8" or larger in diameter is recommended. Handles on ropes are not permitted.
- b. Attachment is to the saddle horn or behind the saddle. If the attachment is behind the saddle it must be secured to the primary rigging rings of the saddle via a narrow diameter, non-elastic rope, so that pulling rope is within an approximate six inches of the cantle, carabineer included. Prior to the race the Start Master or his designee must approve the length of the rope and any attachment to the saddle.

9. SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is important to the success of our event and the image of the community. Your registration signature pledges your word to the humane treatment of your horse and respectful relationships to all fellow competitors and volunteers hosting this exciting competition. Failure to comply with the spirit of friendly competition at any of the scheduled events may result in the disqualification of your team or your banishment from future competitions.

10. RACE RESULTS

Race results will be announced and posted, and prize money and awards will be distributed at a designated location.

